

ARBETSGRUPPEN FÖR UFOLOGI

AWARENESS

SUMMER 1978

A W A R E N E S S

(A Contact (UK) Publication).

Summer, 1978.

Volume 7, no:2.

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The editor regrets that for various reasons it is not always possible to acknowledge every item of correspondence received by Contact (UK) personnel, a fact in no way diminishing our gratitude to all who bother to communicate with us.

E D I T O R I A L

From time to time members and other bodies write to Contact (UK) personnel enquiring if they can assist in the running of the organization or if they can obtain information about ufos or Contact (UK) itself. Sometimes enquiries are received from schoolchildren who have selected ufos as a topic for study; on

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other occasions we hear from old people's clubs or women's guilds who feel it desirable to learn more about ufos or to invite a member of your committee to give a talk about ufology in general. In too many instances, however, prior commitments mean that help is either limited or delayed and some lectures cannot be given. Nonetheless, in practically every case when positive help is given and when talks can be delivered, it is revealed that the enquirers were first prompted to involve themselves in ufology through some personal ufological experience of their own. Also, in the great majority of such cases, none of the sightings witnessed by these individuals had previously been recorded or submitted to an organization concerned with the ufo phenomenon.

There is little doubt that vast masses of ufological data lie undetected in people's memory banks, often suppressed for fear of ridicule or embarrassment. In former years, when the subject of ufos was less "fashionable", and certainly less acceptable, than it seems to be now, one could appreciate the reasons for such eyewitness reticence. Now, with an improved general "climate", such as has followed upon the widespread publicity given ufology earlier this year about the time when "Star Wars" and "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" were released in the cinemas, many former eyewitnesses came forward with relevant details. These latter are frequently of the highest interest and of no little importance. One might therefore ask: how many individuals are there who have still to come forward with accounts of their ufological experiences? Perhaps members know of friends, even relatives, in such a position. If so, do everything possible to persuade them to disclose their very special (and important) knowledge, and that to do so will not subject them to ridicule or remedial psychiatry.

Although the two aforementioned films have generated no massive ufo "wave" — contrary to the earlier predictions of certain cynics and pessimists — ufos as a subject are now being discussed openly and freely by the public at large, so now is indeed a fine time for persuading those with unrecorded sightings to divulge their secrets. If past social behaviour is a fair indicator, then the present favourable climate of opinion may not last overlong, and the opportunity for garnering many additional sightings in this particular category could well evaporate.

All members who can solicit additional genuine cases of this sort should send all relevant information to the Senior Research Officer, whose address occurs overleaf. If everyone was to undertake widespread enquiries to try and track down such reports, not only would each be achieving a valuable piece of detective work but our knowledge of the overall ufo field would expand accordingly. Neither is special training required to accomplish this. Here, then, is an area in which every member and every ufologist can make important contributions.

Whilst on the above aspect of ufology, I would touch here upon a related one — that of earlier newspaper accounts of ufo sightings of long ago. Data Research personnel would, through this column, like to thank all the many members and associating ufo groups who have sent in clippings detailing such historical ufo manifestations, and which in nearly every instance were hitherto unknown at headquarters. Our previous appeal for such material had enjoyed splendid response, everyone concerned deserving the fullest congratulations. Indeed, so many clippings have been received that it has proved physically impossible to acknowledge every example. Some very interesting old reports have come to light via this process and one day we hope to republish at least the best of them. Without such membership co-operation no organization can survive. On present evidence, Contact (UK) will long survive.

The Editor.

"SELECTED UFO REPORTS"

by

D.N.Mansell.

The following ufo reports, which cover the period December 1977 to June 1978, are a selection of the more interesting or significant sightings received by the Data Research section of Contact (UK) over the past few months, and should afford readers a small glimpse of the huge range of reports that regularly arrive through our mailbox. They are listed chronologically, and in no way constitute anything but a small fraction of the total number of separate reports received.

December 30th., 1977: time 4.30 pm.

Exhall, Warwickshire, ENGLAND.

During the Christmas holidays Mrs Edith Lane stayed with her son at Exhall. At the time stated above Mr Lane (the son) saw the object, a golden oval, approach from the west and, along with Mrs Lane's daughter-in-law and grand-daughter, kept it under observation for about 5 minutes. The object, which was apparently several feet in diameter, slowed down and then hovered over some nearby electricity pylons --- some two miles distant from the witnesses --- and shimmered as it did so. It remained motionless for several minutes and then shot away at high speed to the west, turning north-west before it vanished from sight. The weather was cold and dry and there was extensive broken cloud. At the spot where the object had hovered there was a "clearing" in the sky several times the diameter of the object. This "clearing" persisted for several minutes after the object had gone from view.

Credit Ken Philips.

January 2nd., 1978: time 4.15 to 4.40 pm. (approximately).

Worthing, Sussex, ENGLAND.

A husband and wife were out riding along the sea front, when they noticed a stationary object in the sky that was unfamiliar to them. Dark coloured, the object was surrounded by a brilliant red vapour. It was soundless. This case is currently under further investigation.

January 2nd., 1978: time 4.00 am.

Bexhill, Sussex, ENGLAND.

Investigated by Steven Watson.

Two witnesses (who prefer anonymity) saw a bowl-shaped object hovering over some trees and houses near here. Of a dark colour, the object exhibited dull orange lights. After a short while these seemed to regenerate into brilliant white lights. The object then departed with a spinning motion, very much like that of a thrown discus. No sound was heard from the object.

January 2nd., 1978: time 5.00 pm.(approximately).

Leicester, Leicestershire, ENGLAND.

Witnesses here watched a small silvery object fly over this city leaving a white coloured elliptical vapour trail. The object emitted no sound, and was thought to be at a very great altitude.

Courtesy of the Leicester
Unidentified Aerial Phenomena
Research Organization.

January 3rd., 1978: time unnoted (but just after "teatime").
Heathland between Cadnam and Fordingbridge, Hampshire, ENGLAND.

Mr and Mrs Brian Stovold of Bower Avenue, Holbury, had been visiting Mrs Stovold's mother in Fordingbridge, and were driving back towards Cadnam when they noticed a saucer-shaped object with a tank-like "turret" on top hovering a few hundred feet above the road. There were some protrusions on the front of the "turret", and there were red and bluey-white lights flashing on top of it. The object, which was soundless, hovered over the heath near the road for about a quarter of an hour before moving very slowly across the road towards Fordingbridge. The object seemed to be about 300 feet above the ground, although as they stopped their car, it swung slowly across the road ahead of them. It was first spotted by three-year-old Nicky, the Stovold's young son. Both adult witnesses drove to Cadnam police station and reported their observation. This case is still under investigation. It was also reported in the Bournemouth Evening Echo, for January 4th., 1978.

January 3rd., 1978: Time 5.10 pm.
Aylestone Park, Leicestershire, ENGLAND.

A lone eyewitness watched a round object exhibiting a bright flashing light. The object, which was soundless, suddenly dematerialized.

Courtesy of the Leicester Unidentified Aerial Phenomena Research Organization.

January 4th., 1978: time 8.30 pm. (approximately).
Near the Tana River, Lamu, KENYA.

Investigated by Tony Nield.

Several witnesses watched a large star-shaped object with a tail travel across the sky. It had an exceedingly bright light, which came on half-way through its observed trajectory. The light was so intense that it enabled witnesses to see trees and footpaths as if it had been daylight. The object, the precise shape of which was difficult to make-out, disappeared over the Indian Ocean, where a loud bang or sound was heard by some eyewitnesses resident near the coast.

January 10th., 1978: time 8.15 pm.
Cannock, Staffordshire, ENGLAND.

Investigated by Garry Piper.

A female witness went out of her house to fetch some coal when she noticed an unfamiliar glow from the top of some trees. She watched a saucer-shaped object rise from behind the trees. In colour it was bright orange, and it was the lower half that was emitting the glow. Making no sound, the object rotated and moved off from NE to N., gradually accelerating to disappear beyond the trees.

January (exact date unknown but about 10th): time 4.15 pm (approximately).
Blandford, Dorset, ENGLAND.

Mr and Mrs G. Blakemore, of 4 Holland Way, Blandford, were out walking their dog, when they espied a black cylindrical object, surmounted by a turret at one end, hovering in the sky over Blandford. Shortly after being noticed, the object emitted a puff of black smoke, as a pair of brilliant headlights came on at its front end. It then began to climb into the blue sky and travelled east until it disappeared from view. Mr Blakemore, a retired nuclear research worker, observed the object through binoculars fetched from his house nearby, and described

the object as being similar to a submarine except that the turret was at the rear rather than in the centre. The witnesses conceded that they could not estimate the object's height above ground level, but thought it was hovering over a locality known locally as The Beeches. An account of this sighting appeared in The Gazette (Yeovil), Somerset, on January 13th., 1978.

January 15th., 1978: time unnoted (but around dusk).

Near Emily Hall, Stetson campus, Deland, Florida, USA.

21 years old Bruce Dahlstrand was setting-up his camera tripod preparatory to a photographic session when he froze in his tracks as he noticed a bright silver "dish" hovering noiselessly almost overhead. Displaying no lights it slid soundlessly back into the twilight clouds scattered across the sky, although not before he had managed to take a snap of the object. This, together with a brief account of the sighting, was published in the Sun News (Deland), Florida, on January 16th., 1978.

January 17th., 1978: time 10.05 am.

Near the Goldberg residence, Mahoning Valley, Pennsylvania, USA.

Leo and Grace Goldberg watched a bright silver-white saucer-shaped object pass near their home at Leighton R.l, during a snowstorm, and managed to secure a polaroid photograph of it before the snowstorm obscured it. The object appeared to be 200-500 feet above the ground, was very large, and moved off along a north-south alignment. Ringo, a neighbour's dog, began to bark wildly at more or less the same time, but its owner failed to investigate the cause of its agitation. A brief account of the eyewitnesses' experience, together with the polaroid photograph, was published in the Morning Call (Allentown), Pennsylvania, on January 18th., 1978.

January 19th., 1978: time 3.45 pm. (approximately).

Estes Lake, near Sanford, Maine, USA.

Three Sanford residents ---- Richard Wakefield, Robert Gammon, and Linwood Noble ---- were snowmobiling on frozen Estes Lake when they spotted two large oval objects covered with red lights hovering over trees surrounding the lake. Shutting-off the engines of their snowmobiles, the witnesses approached closer to the objects, which, however, shot off at high speed in the opposite direction. Wakefield declared that the objects resembled big tubs with lots of holes in them. The objects were spinning and had red lights all over them. Gammon said that both objects looked like frisbees covered with Christmas lights. and Noble said that, when the objects departed, they travelled side by side some 40 or 50 feet apart, and moved smoothly through the air unlike any helicopter or aeroplane known to him. Gammon added that both objects disappeared in seconds. All three witnesses were most impressed by the completely soundless nature of the objects. The Journal Tribune (Biddeford), Maine, of January 24th., 1978, published an interesting account of this event.

January 24th., 1978: time 5.30 pm.

Patcham, Sussex, ENGLAND.

A married couple were returning from a walk, when they noticed a large orange hued light low in the sky. It resembled twin headlights close together, and was very bright. It was soundless. The object then slowly approached them until it was overhead, although no shape behind it could be made out. It then abruptly dematerialized, leaving the witnesses open-mouthed.

January 24th., 1978: time (varying between 4.15 pm.to 9.20 pm.).
Leicester, Leicestershire, ENGLAND.

At least eleven different objects were observed over the Leicester district by different witnesses between the hours stated above. The objects ranged from star-shaped and globular-light shaped objects to triangular objects. The colours reported included silver, white, and orange. One of the objects could well have been the object sighted over Patcham at 5.30 pm. or thereabouts (see preceding page for details of this sighting). None of the objects observed over the Leicester area have been satisfactorily identified, and they remain at this date of unknown origin and nature.

Courtesy of the Leicester Un-
 identified Aerial Phenomena Re-
 search Organization.

January 25th., 1978: time (unnoted but evening).
Woolwich ferry, Woolwich, Kent, ENGLAND.

Two cigar-shaped objects were spotted low in the sky by Mr Arthur Skingley and others on the Woolwich ferry. Both objects were of similar size, silver-grey in hue, and with well defined regular outlines. One was vertical and the other was horizontal, the latter drifting slowly to the right of the witnesses until it passed behind a tall office block in Woolwich. It did not emerge from behind the building, although the vertical object then tilted to the left moving slowly upwards, picked up speed and shot skywards leaving a tapered vapour trail behind it. It then arched round towards the ferry, which now had cars and was heading with them towards Woolwich itself, and passed up the Thames in a westerly direction. An account of this interesting event was published in the Kentish Independent (Woolwich), of February 2nd., 1978.

January 28th., 1978: time 10.0 pm.
A2 motorway near Gravel Hill, Bexleyheath, Kent, ENGLAND.

Occupants of a car driving towards Dartford had their attention drawn to a bright orange light moving across some trees before appearing to land or descend behind some nearby houses. The object was round, somewhere between a foot ball and a cricket ball in size when held at arm's length, and glowed a soft orange. It then reappeared, hovered, and moved across the front of the car, before disappearing behind some more houses. Investigated by Mrs Margaret Fry.

January 29th., 1978: time 10.0pm.
Longworth, Oxfordshire, ENGLAND.

A male witness was driving when he noticed a bright light in the sky. After driving for another 1.8 miles (approximately), watching the light all the time, he realized that he was level with it or that it had approached his position. He stopped his car and turned off his engine, to find that the light was stationary, cigar-shaped, and completely silent. It possessed four dull lights down its side, but at one end was a very bright light like a landing light, but with no beam. The object then abruptly vanished.

Investigated by Data Research.

February 4th., 1978: time about 4.30 or 5.00 am.
La Florida club, San Luis, ARGENTINA.

32 years-old Manuel Alvarez, and five of his friends, were fishing when they

saw a saucer-shaped object poised in the air some four metres above the ground, and some 25 metres distant from them. Suddenly a door opened in the side of the object and a ladder was lowered. Then a humanoid figure clothed in a material that emitted a strange kind of light, and with a sort of space helmet on his head, came down the ladder, stood on one of its lowest rungs, waived a gauntleted hand at the witnesses, then went back into the object, which then departed at immense velocity. All the percipients agree that everything they saw occurred within the space of one minute. The local chief of police, who received the witnesses' story, organized a search of the area but so far communicate has been issued as to what, if anything, was discovered at the site. This intriguing account was printed in the Herald, Buenos Aires, on February 16th., 1978.

February 5th., 1978: time 7.45 pm.

Bexhill, Sussex, ENGLAND.

Investigated by Steve Watson.

Carborne witnesses noticed a flashing yellowish-white light in the sky, which they considered unusual because it was flashing four or five times faster than a flashing light on an aeroplane or helicopter. Then they watched another similar light converging upon the first one. Both lights temporarily passed from sight behind a tall block of flats, but when the witnesses had driven past the flats only one flashing light remained, still flashing too quickly to be a flashing light on a conventional aeroplane.

February 9th., 1978: time about 6.45 pm.

Bell Island, near Pole Pass, Shaw, Washington State, USA.

Clayton and Eve Shaw, who live at an old farmhouse at the end of Broekn Point on Shaw Island, watched an unknown object like a chicken-brooder, some 15 to 20 feet in diameter, in the sky near their home. The object was oblong, oval-shaped on the top and flat on the bottom; it had windows through which came an extremely bright red light.

Mrs Shaw says that the object has been observed by her husband over the same area on several occasions, commencing in March 1977. She added that the object appears always about the same hour, first appears as a star that gets "bigger and bigger". It usually hovers over the bay for 5 to 8 minutes, "then starts to fade away until it becomes a pink colour and then in a flash it is gone". The Shaws have viewed the object through binoculars, and Clayton Shaw has seen it at least eight times since March 1977 in the same general area. Accounts of this seemingly interesting "repeater" case were published in the Times (Seattle) of February 19th, 1978, and the Journal (Friday Harbour), of February 21st., 1978.

February 22nd., 1978: time 6.10 pm.

Banstead, Surrey, ENGLAND.

Investigated by Roy Fisher.

Observers watched flashing lights each the size of a pea held at arm's length. Each object was white, and at one stage hovered or remained stationary for three minutes, before proceeding and disappearing over the horizon. Just before passing out of sight the lights suddenly changed to a bright red colour.

February 22nd., 1978: time (not stated).

Route 37, Vallejo, California, USA.

Driving west on State Route 37, a motorist saw two ufos over Mare Island. The

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objects were silvery in colour and about the size of a car tyre. The witness stopped his car on the Napa River Bridge to observe the objects more closely. The objects were seen to be oval shaped, one of them remaining motionless over Mare Island while the other performed "acrobatics". Both objects were emitting vapour. The percipient told police, when he subsequently reported his observation, that he chanced to look away for a few seconds and that when he looked back both objects had vanished. The Times-Herald (Vallejo) of February 23rd., 1978, printed a short account of this sighting.

February 25th, 1978: time about 8.00 pm.
About 1 mile from McKinney, Kentucky, USA.

A grey coloured round object with a square top and a window, was seen hovering about 200 feet above ground level near this Lincoln County community. The object, observed by Curt Folger, of 310 Danville Avenue, Stanford, carried red, white, and green lights. After a few minutes, the object suddenly took off at high speed. The Interior-Journal (Stanford, Kentucky), of March 2nd., carried a brief account of this report.

March 8th., 1978: time 7.55 pm.
Crooks Road, Avon, Michigan, USA.

A very fast moving green triangular object was watched in the sky by a woman travelling along Crooks Road near Auburn Road, just 10 minutes after Edward Oakie reported that he had seen travelling from west to east an object like an elongated doughnut having a point and also a cockpit where the doughnut hole would normally occur. This latter object was yellowish with a bluish top. Very interestingly, this object left a zig-zag shaped vapour trail. Holly Schuman reported seeing an object very similar to Oakie's pass over Metropolitan Beach, in the Macomb area, while two park rangers at the same locality observed a green and yellow cone-shaped object fly past the park administration building at 8.00 pm. One of the rangers stated that the object was a mere 50 feet above the ground, and travelled east over Lake St.Clair at 40 to 50 miles an hour. Apparently other witnesses reported the same object as Troy police and officials at Selfridge Air National Guard Base received reports of a similar object over Lake St.Clair about 8.00 pm.

Before the above are dismissed as meteorological balloons it should be noted that, also at 8.00 pm. on this date, similar objects were sighted over the Canadian cities of Windsor, Barrie, Chatham, etc., where they were seen to be large, oval-shaped, equipped with bright lights, and coloured red, yellow, green, and blue. They also flew at low altitudes.

Just as interesting was the turquoise coloured light that ascended vertically from ground level at New Baltimore, Michigan, at 8.12 pm., and which was in view for several seconds. Earlier, at 7.57 pm., a green and yellow object was sighted over Gratiot Road, Mount Clemens, Michigan, by Maria Merino. This object was coloured yellow and green, left a vapour trail behind it, was visible for at least three seconds, and headed towards Lake St.Clair.

Although unnamed scientists are reported to have said that these objects may have been meteors, that explanation is exceedingly strained in view of the shapes of several of the objects and the vertical ascent of the one sighted at New Baltimore. Undoubtedly a very interesting chapter in ufology was enacted over the Macomb area and Lake St.Clair area on March 8th.1978. A fairly detailed account of these events was published in the Times-Herald (Port Huron) of 8th.

March 9th., 1978: time late evening.
Risley, Warrington, Cheshire, ENGLAND.

Mr Kenneth Edwards, a 39 years-old service engineer, contacted police after seeing a strange man-like entity near the Manchester University reactor and the British Nuclear Fuels centre at Risley, whilst driving along a motorway approach road. He picked up the entity in the car's headlights. It was about 7 feet tall, had a head, two arms and two legs, and wore a silver suit. The arms, however, appeared to come out from the entity's chest — not the shoulders — while in place of eyes were two beams of light. The giant figure, which was stooped over, clambered stiff leggedly down the grass motorway embankment, crossed the road, climbed the opposite embankment and stood in front of a high security fence. It then brought its arms up to waist height and then "seemed to walk through the fence". When Mr Edwards returned to the exact spot with police there was no sign of any hole or break in the fencing. The police afterwards stated that Mr Edwards was sober, genuine, and in an obvious state of shock. They are investigating further. In Mr Edwards's opinion the entity was a "man from outer space". Accounts of this remarkable event were printed in the Sunday People, Sunday Telegraph, and Sunday Times newspapers for 19th. March 1978.

March 13th., 1978; time (unnoted, but night time).
Near Lake Baskatong, Ontario, CANADA.

Jacques Lavoie and Richard Huot were camping near Lake Baskatong, some 320 kilometres northwest of Montreal, in the La Verendrye Park, when a bright, glowing object hurtled out of the sky and sent them running through the snow in terror. When the object seemed to disappear the two men returned to their camp only to find the object hovering silently over the lake. Then they photographed the object with a 35-millimetre camera. The resultant coarse-grained prints show a blurred oval-shaped white object in a sea of black or very dark grey, the faintest of outlines being discernible of what could be trees and the lake surface. Lavoie and Huot state that the object appeared for only about 30 seconds. A brief account of this sighting together with a picture of the two percipients and three of their photographs appeared in the Sun (Toronto), for March 14th., 1978.

March 15th:1978: time 4.30 am.
One mile west of Moser Channel, near Key West, Florida, USA.

Police deputies Jennie Walterson and Charlie Sprinkle of the Monroe County Sheriff's Department reported that two cars stopped them at Knight's Key to claim a "big, bright, white light" had plunged into the water just off the side of Seven Mile Bridge, on the Gulf side, one mile west of Moser Channel. Checks established that no aeroplanes were missing in that area that night, and, to date, the object remains unidentified. The Citizen (Key West), for March 15th., 1978 carried a short report on this event.

March 16th., 1978: time 6.30 am.
Near Mt.Kaala, HONOLULU.

A "weirdly pulsating" light larger than the Moon lit up the whole of the North Shore district, and blinked at least twice against the background of Mt.Kaala. It remains unidentified. See the Star Bulletin (Honolulu) for March 16th., 1978.

March 19th., 1978: time about 9.30 pm.
Near Lenoir-Rhyne College, Hickory, North Carolina, USA.

Five teenage girls reported watching a circular object about 10 feet long and with two tails at the rear circle the college area. It had two bright white lights that, when the object suddenly went straight up, turned to red. It was completely soundless, and then, as one of the lights turned green, it disappeared. The Hickory (NC) Record of March 20th., 1978, published a short account of this observation.

March 29th., 1978: time about 9.00 pm.
Ratby, Leicestershire, ENGLAND.

A student nurse, Miss Lynn Brown, almost fell off her motor-cycle when she spotted a remarkable object some 200 feet above the ground two fields away while driving along a lane between Kirby Muxloe and Ratby. The object, which she described as long, red, and belching white hot flames from its rear end, was near the T.I.Desford Tubes works, over which it was hovering with a loud droning noise. She watched it like this for about four minutes, then proceeded towards Ratby. Glancing back at the object she saw it tilt and made out lights at each point of a triangular shape. The Hinckley Times (Leicester), of March 31st., 1978, printed a report of Miss Brown's interesting sighting.

March 31st., 1978: time about 7.30 pm.
Near Fareham, Hampshire, ENGLAND.

Two cigar-shaped objects were observed by 15-year-old Louise Dillon-Shallard and her father flying over Fareham towards Titchfield. Both objects were pale white, one, however, having an orange patch on its underside. Both moved steadily northwards across the sky one behind the other. No noise was audible. An account of this observation was featured in the Portsmouth (Hants,) News, for April 3rd., 1978.

March 31st., 1978: time (overnight).
Sherlock residence, Tilton Road, Fremont, New York State, USA.

Many Fremont residents are wondering where the soil went from the 12 foot diameter round hole with perfectly smooth vertical sides that appeared overnight in a field at the Sherlock property on Tilton Road, Fremont. The hole, some 15 feet deep, was in an area that had just previously been covered by a snow-fall, and was only discovered by Mark Sherlock as he went out to see how much snow remained in the field preparatory to commencing Spring planting. There had been no hole there or anywhere else on the Sherlock property when the field was ploughed the preceding Autumn. The extreme symmetry of the hole rules out the explanation that the land had caved in at that spot or that a meteor had landed the ground there.

Although there is no definite tie-in with ufo activity, it is worth stressing that similar symmetrical or artificially induced holes have appeared overnight on other farms down the years --- notably the Charlton crater --- are have been associated with ufo activity. The Post-Standard of Syracuse (N.Y.) for April 10th., 1978, carried an article about this Fremont hole and published a photograph of it.

April 14th., 1978: time early hours.
Brighouse, West Yorkshire, ENGLAND.

Astonished policemen, at least six of them, in different sections of this area watched a giant glowing globe in the sky over their beat and eventually fly off to the south. Whilst under observation, the vivid white object slowly changed colour through shades of red, blue, and green. One of the policemen found that his pocket transmitter failed to function while the globe was in his vicinity. Although it hovered over the Brighouse district, the object also moved slowly up and down while doing so. It was soundless. Checks have revealed that it was not a balloon released by any known agency. The Huddersfield Examiner for April 14th., 1978 published an account of this event.

April 26th., 1978: time late evening (exact hour unknown).

Route 532 near Washington crossing, New Jersey, USA.

Gene H. Epstein and John E. Karpac were driving along this highway when they saw in the late evening sky a configuration of four extremely bright, white lights that appeared to be hovering an estimated 2,000 feet overhead. They stopped the car and got out to take a closer look. The lights then started to move, accelerating from nil miles per hour to infinity in about "a couple of seconds". Karpac compared the lights to floodlights mounted on towers above baseball fields, but added that they did not illuminate anything. Both witnesses agreed that the lights seemed to be attached a dark pontoon-shaped object barely silhouetted against the sky. One of the lights was red after a while, but they did not see it change colour. Both men hold highly responsible jobs and their story was accepted as genuine by local police to whom they reported their experience. The Trenton (N.J.) Times of April 29th., 1978 featured an account of this event.

May 1st., 1978: time 5.10 am.

Estral Beach, Monroe County, Michigan, USA.

Numerous residents of this community saw on this date, and again on May 3rd., a long dark object with two large bright lights on it and a third 3-foot diameter orange-red light underneath hovering in the sky for approximately three minutes. On both occasions it then "disappeared real fast towards Monroe". On the first occasion, May 1st., a cat, owned by Mrs Mavis McBride, started going berserk and started to claw down a house door while the object was in the vicinity. A brief account of this sighting occurred in the Monroe (MI) Evening News for May 3rd., 1978.

May 2nd., 1978: time 11.15 am.

Ironwood, Michigan, USA.

Gail Brady of Bruce Crossing reported to police that she had been pursued by a ufo with blinking lights for five miles in the U.S. and two-Mile Road area. A police officer despatched to investigate reported back to headquarters that he also could see a cylindrical object in the sky flying low in a two-mile radius. On later being advised that the phenomenon was possibly the northern lights, the officer, Tim Streeter, reacted by saying "No way. I don't know what it was, but there sure was something up there". The Ironwood (MI) Daily Globe for May 2nd., 1978, printed a short column describing this sighting.

May 14th., 1978: time 9.45 pm.

Lewisham, London, ENGLAND.

Two policemen watched a distinct yellow glow, six times brighter than a star shining through cloud cover for 20 minutes. The object hovered, and was compared with a report from another observed who said it was a large object having a

variety of lights and making a low humming sound. Police admitted that strange lights and objects had been reported over the Battersea and Clapham areas of south London on five or six different occasions during the preceding month. See the South London Times (London), for May 16th., 1978.

May 14th., 1978: time 10.05 pm.

Florida Forest and Silver Glen Springs, Florida, USA.

Unexplained lighted objects appeared in the night sky over a remote section of Florida forest and were tracked at a nearby Navy electronics centre. Spokesmen admitted that one object hovered and then sped away after eluding computerized tracking gear. "The computer won't handle it" a Navy spokesman said. The area houses sophisticated electronic equipment used to train pilots in evading enemy weapons in combat. The sightings occupied a two hour period, and was so marked that a civilian telephoned to ask if the centre was sending up flares. No flares were being used then according to Navy personnel. Then another caller phoned in to say that he, and seven others, travelling near Silver Glen Springs, had seen a very strange object flitting about the sky. No further details were announced respecting this latter object. The Akansas Gazette (Little Rock (ARK).) for May 17th., 1978, featured the above details, and further ones were printed in the Ocala (Fl.) Star-Banner, for May 18th., 1978.

May 19th., 1978: time about 4.00 pm. to 6.00 pm.

U.S. Highway 29, near Greenville, South Carolina, USA.

At least two miles of cars snarled up on this highway while their drivers stopped to look at a large silver object shaped like a fountain-pen hovering in the sky just above the horizon. It moved slowly and was visible for almost two hours. One telephoned report said the object was more of a pumpkin shape and was the size of a football field. Although at least 75 persons saw it the police at nearby Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office had no record of the sighting, despite it being the apparent cause of the traffic jam. See the Greer (SC) Citizen, for May 31st., 1978.

May (exact date unnoted): time 4.00 am.

Shiraz, IRAN.

16-years old student, Jamshid Sayadinour, was up late studying for his forthcoming exams when he spotted through the window a saucer-shaped object with a flattened-off upper cabin in the sky. Racing for his camera he managed to take one photograph of the object before it moved away. According to the Evening Standard (London), for June 27th., 1978, which published this report and Jamshid's photograph, such sightings are not uncommon in the southern area of Iran. Jamshid himself said that, a week after he secured his photograph, he saw three more similar objects appear over the horizon although was not in a position to photograph them.

June 1st., 1978: time 7.30 am.

Paclin, Catamarca Province, ARGENTINA,

Numerous residents have reported several observations of ufos from different regions of this province, including La Bajada, Palo Labrado, Monte Potrero, and near the Huacra river. Many witnesses have been in groups, as were eight teachers near Las Chacras who sighted three pale green metallic looking objects that zigzagged from SE to E and returned to the SW before disappearing from sight. These and many other Argentinian sightings of the same general period were de-

tailed in Cronica (Argentina), for June 7th., 1978.

June 17th., 1978: time about 10.00 pm.

Northe Platte, Nebraska, USA.

Witnesses reported a strange hovering light ringed with a blue haze that, as police officers attempted to find a better location to view it from more closely, just vanished. One woman had watched the object for an hour and a half, during which period it remained quite stationary. The Haverhill (Maryland) Gazette, for June 20th., 1978, printed the salient details of these sightings.

June 28th., 1978: time 110.00 pm.

Butler, Ohio, USA.

At least 14 residents on Franklin Church Road, in northeastern Richland County, watched a strange bright yellow light hover over a farm about half a mile west of them. It remained in the sky for almost 30 minutes before disappearing below the skyline. Several minutes later the light returned, and then dimmed as though it were "taking off". The object remains unidentified. A few of the more important details of this event were printed in the News Journal (Mansfield, Ohio) of June 29th., 1978.

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Readers will be aware that these selected reports represent a small percentage of the total recorded for the months in question, themselves a period of quite intense ufo activity on a global scale, and one that followed on the great ufo saga of 1977 that, as far as available material indicates, was a true "wave" year. It is, of course, too early to determine the real extent and magnitude of the 1977 activity, although it is interesting to see that the intensity of the activity falls roughly into the predicted peak for 1977 made independently by messrs Saunders and Delair. In due course a fuller analysis of this great mass of ufo activity will be published in this journal, as also will even more recent reports postdating the June period just mentioned.

" A PLETHORA OF UFO GROUPS "

by

Jenny Randles.

Everyone knows that when you cut a worm in half one ends up with two worms -- worms having the near unique zoological charater of possessing two heads, one at either end. It seems to me that we have a somewhat similar problem in present day ufology, as, rather than pruning and refining our meagre resources pool, it seems for ever to be spawning spin-off groups. Certainly the CE3 "boom", where the "in" hobby is ufo spotting, is not helping matters.

No doubt all serious ufo groups and accredited private ufo investigators have, like me, been recently bombarded with appeals and requests from eager school children and the like for information on ufos. Requests like "Please tell me how to spot a ufo" and "send me all the information you have on ufos". Very clearly those making such requests haven't the slightest idea about the complexity of modern ufology and must be very disappointed when no quick answers are forthcoming. Irksome though such requests are becoming let us also note that these same intrepid young enquirers are likely to be the ufologists of

tomorrow, so it really is up to the established echelons of British ufology to try and help them. If you, personally, do not have the time to assist these young enquirers then do please point them in the direction of some reputable national group, such as Contact (UK) or BUFORA; but not to FSR, or the Northern UFO Network, as these organizations do not have "members".

But if sensible direction of new young blood is something of a problem, then it pales in comparison with trying to cope with the rising number of "new" groups springing up like mushrooms everywhere. This is a very real problem, far more extensive than often realized. Indeed, one wonders if this proliferation simply reflects a desire for personal aggrandisement, or, if you prefer, a vehicle for ego-trippers. That this is both true and untrue is demonstrated by the two following (and current) examples.

Firstly, a desirable development. The newly formed Southern UFO Network — a counterpart to the respected Northern UFO Network — is now well under way from its headquarters at 1 Bladon Close, Denvilles, Havant, Hampshire. John Makin, a policeman and member of WATSUP, the well-known Hampshire ufo group, is in the hot seat, and it is to him that all relevant enquiries should be addressed. All serious ufologists will wish the Southern UFO Network the best of future fortune.

Secondly, an item seemingly on the reverse side of the coin. The British UFO Society — hosts of the recent skywatch that was apparently to be the first ever to co-ordinate investigations on a wide scale — has been, through certain individuals, issuing some highly questionable communiques. No doubt, many readers will recall the BUFOS secretary Ken Rogers saying in the "Sun" for February 23rd., "The top spotters, including himself, landed in hospital with nervous breakdowns after sighting ufos. He blamed alien spacecraft for the awesome calamity, then quit the British UFO Society and burnt all his files. He also added that "None of the people involved in the big investigations during the 1960's is around today" apparently as some kind of vindication of his illness as if they, too, had departed the ufo scene for similar reasons. I am sure that celebrated British ufologists of the 1960's like Charles Bowen, Gordon Creighton, Lionel Beer, Norman Oliver, Trevor Whitaker, and Brinsley Le Poer Trench, not to mention Leonard Cramp, Edgar Hatvanay, John Cleary-Baker, Ivar MacKay, and others, will be interested to hear that they are defunct. In reality, of course, they all continue their ufological investigations even if without the loud trumpeting approach of Mr Rogers.

Then, by June 21st., Mr Rogers it seems had made a remarkable recovery, as on that date in the "Sun" he was back launching the skywatch and making fresh impossible claims. To be charitable and to stretch an already over-taut rubber band still further we can accept that the national press can, and sometimes do, misrepresent even the most innocent statements. Had Mr Rogers suffered in this way? One suspects not when we recall the affair of the Adamski "saucer" being a bottle-cooler top. At least it was reported as such in the press, which one assumes recorded faithfully what they were told by — guess who? — Ken Rogers, of the British UFO Society. The irresponsibility of such statements does no good at all to the cause of ufology, while bodies making them become thoroughly discredited. Regrettably, it is precisely these kinds of spurious announcements that the aforementioned new young blood encounter in the first instance. On being "educated" about the inaccuracy of such statements many of these promising potentials for the future are "turned-off" ufology. Under such circumstances one can easily see why.

Not so long ago, just a few weeks in fact, the BUFOS chairman rang me to say that he had just discovered that NUFON existed and hinted that perhaps we (or NUFON) should change its name because it clashed with a new business venture that BUFOS was launching. Neither had he heard of FSR nor MUFOB. Yet the British UFO Society issues regular statements publically couched in authoritative language which, to the uninitiated, must seem informed and organized. On the basis of the foregoing, one could hardly subscribe to the view that BUFOS or its spokesmen were informed. They are, however, quite well organized in their own "ignorant" way, insofar that, while remaining until recently blissfully unaware of FSR and MUFOB, they sell "T" shirts, ufo photographs, and other items on a minor commercial scale. Needless to add NUFON will not be changing its name. Naturally, everyone hopes that the series of frightful blunders committed by or in BUFOS's name these past months constitute nothing but the teething troubles of an organization that one day may find a rightful place alongside the longer established investigative groups already named in this article. At present, however, and on the evidence of BUFOS's past track record, they inspire scant confidence. As previously mentioned, whenever their sensational and frequently absurd communiques are released via the press, these are often the first contacts that young new potential ufologists encounter. Such distorted early views are not only undesirable but unhealthy for future British ufology, and, in consequence, also a considerable drain on the time of other more reputable organizations who feel obliged to spend time and effort correcting these erroneous impressions. Therein lies the greatest problem.

Finally, there are the numerous new ufo groups who, like BUFOS, initially seem unaware of the existence or capacities of the "big four", namely FSR, Contact (UK), BUFORA, and NUFON --- now grown to five with the inauguration of SUFON (Southern UFO Network); nor with the specialist expertise of smaller highly acclaimed groups like MUFOB. These new groups start off with frequently commendable but highly grandiose schemes to set-up national archives, ufo libraries and the like, at the same time being unaware that BUFORA, Contact (UK), FSR, and MUFOB already possess such facilities, the libraries of FSR and Bufora, and the great world catalogue of Contact (UK) being not only outstanding but of international repute. All too often, after the first flush of enthusiasm is passed, many of these small new groups stagnate and eventually fizzle out. Yet, in their lives, sometimes short sometimes longer, they accumulate much valuable local data, much of it not duplicated in the extensive archives of the larger national organizations just named. Sadder still, much of these enthusiastically collected records appear to disappear on the collapse of these transient groups. Where does it go to? Is it destroyed as Ken Rogers would have us believe was the fate of his files? If not, is it still retrievable? Many such questions raise their heads in the face of this situation. All things considered, would it not be far better for all small groups to become affiliated, even if only loosely, to either NUFON or SUFON dependent upon their geographical location, whereby greater mutual benefit to all participating parties would result? That is the advice I would proffer here, particularly as these are precisely the functions of NUFON and, I understand, SUFON. Both NUFON and SUFON are in regular communication with BUFORA, Contact (UK), FSR, and with each other, so that a lattice of related bodies exchanging information exists.

Without such a general network as I have outlined we end up with a plethora of directionless ufo groups who accomplish more confusion and frustration than if they had never existed. Let us be sensible about all this.

"UFOs: THE TIP OF ANICEBERG",

by

J.B.Delair.

For the purposes of this article the assumption is made that the ufo phenomenon is not only real but exhibits repeated indications of being intelligently controlled.

Those ufologists who try to keep abreast of the ufo literature — which embraces a host of magazines as well as books (both old and new) — know that, after the first few publications printed during the initial three or four years of the modern (post 1947) ufo era, authors began to spice their texts with all kinds of curiosities and subjects not always discernibly associated with ufos pure and simple. Thus, down the years, we have had grafted onto appraisals of ufo cases such subjects such as "Men in Black" (MIBs), inexplicable animal mutilations, strange accoustical phenomena, sky falls, sightings of anthropoids ("Sasquatch" and "Bigfoot") and other zoologically unknown creatures, sudden disappearances of men, ships, and aeroplanes, and other peculiar and little understood topics. It must be stressed here, at the outset, that not one of the above mentioned phenomena has been proved to be indisputably linked to the ufo phenomenon pure and simple; that is, to manifestations in Earth's skies of a variety of strange aerofoils and, sometimes, alien occupants. There are some reasons for suspecting that MIBs are imaginary, and other reasons for wondering if some of the other phenomena are natural but as yet uncomprehended events. However, since the temporal distribution of certain of these events coincides precisely or closely with outbreaks of ufo activity it would be as unwise to dismiss them from the field of pure ufology as it is to accept them as being definite pieces of the ufo puzzle.

We can thus see that we have a "pure" ufology, represented by observed manifestations of aerial objects and (sometimes) their occupants, and also possibly extensions of it embracing a whole range of peculiar and bizarre happenings which may be termed "peripheral" or "extensional" ufology. In this article, the expression "peripheral" has been preferred.

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The "pure" ufo record, as known to us, concerns a variety of objects exhibiting precise and manufactured configurations, that perform or behave in a way generally unlike that of analogous manmade aerial machinery. The eyewitness descriptions of these objects are remarkable insofar as they are consistent in most salient matters irrespective of who the observers were, where they were located geographically, or when the descriptions were made temporally. "Pure" ufology" also deals with cases in which ufos have landed and produced markings or surface damage on the face of this planet, and which, less frequently, have disgorged occupants, of which the great majority appear to be of humanoid form. Many of the markings left upon the ground by ufos, and many of the areas damaged by landed ufos, are of symmetrical configuration, from which it may be inferred that the phenomenon responsible for these effects is of artificial origin.

It hardly needs to be added that artificialness is the product of ordered intelligence.

The fact that some landed ufos leave measurable ground indentations shows them to be objects of real mass and weight, even if only when in our environment. They must, therefore, be composed of at least some percentage of hard, unyielding material capable of producing such indentations. Many witnesses confronted with landed or low hovering ufos have subsequently described seeing windows, ramps, doors, hatches, rails, flanges, antennae, hose-like apparatus, mechanical arms or lifting gear, and various types of legs or supports on ufos. From such evidence the impression is exceedingly strong that all such objects are machines or craft. Indeed, numerous ufologists believe that that is exactly what they are, although it should be instantly stressed that not every ufo, so called, appears to have solid construction whereby some at least may prove to be composed of other types of matter nevertheless controllable by the ufo manipulators. Quite a number of eyewitnesses who have seen landed ufos at close quarters have stated that they have observed rivet-like features on ufo exteriors or welded seams, while yet others claim to have watched ufo occupants exchanging or mending panels or other units detachable from the main body of the parent ufo. All this is, again, highly indicative of ufos been artificial constructions.

So far, this article has touched on little that will be new to readers; but at this juncture I now wish to divert attention away from the general wonderment inevitably accompanying the realization that ufos are extraterrestrial or intra dimensional machines of alien origin, and, instead, focus upon what such a realization implies.

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The incredible flight capabilities of ufos also presupposes that, assuming as I think we must that they are machines, they utilize a powerful and highly controllable propulsive force and system. However simply this may be based, however, must inevitably have integral control units, themselves presumably of sophisticated design to allow the amazing behavioural patterns so characteristic of ufos. The near perfection of ufo performances the world over forcefully argues that the "mechanics" of ufos are exceedingly advanced and that their operation demands razor-fine control. These factors in turn indicate a high order of intelligence necessary to create such controls, and, what is more, a variety of other advanced skills and extensive knowledge upon which the design of ufo components and controls must inevitably rest.

The realization that ufos and their operational activities represent a complex and advanced underlying technology inevitably leads to the probability that ufos themselves are conceivably no more important within that technology than is, say, the motor car in Earth technology. From this standpoint ufos can be seen to be little more than the tip of an iceberg, the greater portion of which --- representative of some alien culture --- is still largely unknown to us.

It is for the above reason that a solution to the overall ufo problem may never be possible through simply studying ufo reports pure and simple. If, as we may suppose, ufos are merely the tip of some much larger iceberg, then it is the substance of that remaining portion of the iceberg that should, indeed must, interest us even more than the characteristics of the ufos that have lead us to the larger whole. This, in turn, suggests that we would do well to give close attention to that segment of ufology previously termed "peripheral", for if ufos do indeed represent the visiting craft of an alien intelligence, they are only the vehicles used by that intelligence which surely has other purposes

for visiting Earth. In other words, a car user seldom drives his vehicle solely for sight-seeing these days, and usually travels in it from one destination for a purposes, whether it be business or pleasure. On arrival of destinations other activities tend to occur, usually premeditated and planned. The ufo record, as known to us, reflects just such analogous occurrences. Specific things tend to happen when ufos approach close to or land upon Earth, even to the disgorging of apparatus and/or occupants of one sort or another. Our hypothetical car user, on arriving at his destination may unload bags or samples from his vehicle (if he is a businessman), or family, friends, or pets (if he is holidaying or merely visiting). A culture more advanced than us may well have dispensed with business and holidaying as we know these things due to the sophisticated nature of their general existence, by which is meant that cultural and technological development may have progressed so far that business as we know it has ceased and the attendant increase of free time for individuals is of such large proportions that individuals are concerned less with holidays (already perhaps more or less continual) and more with personal or private, or even communal, interests and investigations. In other words, the culture that may be indicated by ufos could very well be, due to its advanced development, a scientifically oriented one in which commercial enterprise and the family holiday no longer exist. Thus the purposes of visits to specific localities, and the activities engaged in once there, could very well assume quite different characters from the equivalent motives Earth-bound individuals usually entertain. Thus, a study of the various problems comprising "peripheral" ufology might very well disclose further valuable glimpses of who our ufo visitors are and why they are visiting Earth so frequently.

If the foregoing inferences are anywhere near correct then we must also accept that ufos, being artificial constructions, are built of materials that initially obtained in the raw and then refined, and that "spin-off" materials are available in many instances during refinement processes. But the acquisition of even raw materials necessitates phases in which those materials are first located and then extracted from in situ ~~either~~ somewhere. Scans and probes, which in turn demand control and evaluation systems, would be required during these phases. Such systems imply a knowledge of mathematics (or some equivalent computational system) and the means whereby it is itself capable of extension as occasion demands and a means of recording formulae in one form or another.

Mathematical knowledge, irrespective of its precise form, permits design and invention, and, perhaps still more important, long-term forward planning. The very wide range of details observed on an already wide range of ufo designs is thus seen to be explicable, even logical, in view of these considerations. It need hardly be emphasized that ufo activities at numerous Earth sites are most suggestive of investigative or probe behaviour; so once again, in view of the possibilities raised in the preceding paragraph, these patterns seem capable of explanation.

The interest of many ufo occupants in terrestrial animals, plants, soils, and water bodies --- reported again and again --- is exceedingly suggestive of biological knowledge undergoing enlargement. The collecting of specimens of these denizens and of soil and water samples further supports the supposition that ufo occupants are engaged in some programme of research featuring propagation and organic development. Any sophisticated culture such as has been postulated in this article would almost certainly find itself developing biological interests, if only from the point of view of improving nutritious foodstuffs or ex-

isting stock. A particularly advanced culture capable of reaching other worlds or dimensions than its own might find it necessary or advantageous to engage in cross-breeding selected or compatible denizens of different origins in order to create superior fauna and flora for seeding in hitherto non-lifebearing or primitive areas. Certainly the continual interest displayed by ufo occupants in terrestrial animals and plants is consistent with (a) a normal type of exploratory programme and (b) the development of an advanced biological and medical knowledge. Indeed, an inevitable spin-off of intense biological research is an expansion of medical knowledge, perhaps on a massive scale. Curiously enough the known ufo record contains quite a number of separate instances in which ufo occupants exhibited advanced and extremely efficient medical expertise.

The repeated abduction of human beings by allegedly alien entities, usually of a general humanoid character, and the subjection of the abductees to clinical examinations and tests, or, as in one celebrated case, to breeding experiments, clearly points to a deep interest among these alien visitors in medical disciplines. All such interests are, again, entirely consistent with a sophisticated culture.

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One might examine many further aspects of ufo behaviour with a view to tracing probable clues to other facets of the underlying ufo culture, but suffice here to simply summarize the glimpses of it that are apparently possible from an analysis of the overall phenomenon, as outlined in the preceding paragraphs.

Firstly, on the assumption that ufos are real, they frequently present a solid external appearance. This indicates that they are made of dense materials, and this in fact seems to be confirmed in those instances when landed ufos have produced measurable indentations and symmetrically arranged holes and depressions on ground surfaces. Observed details, moreover, strongly indicate that a high percentage of ufos are artificial constructions. Dense materials indicates mass, although during flight ufos often exhibit manoeuvrability characteristic of massless objects.

Secondly, propulsion systems capable of propelling in the manner commonly reported, and no matter how simple it may actually be, is clearly highly controllable and suggestive of elaborate support systems.

Thirdly, the utilization by ufos of propulsion systems and materials of the type suggested above further suggests that both materials and fuels must initially be detected and extracted in raw state, and then refined and harnessed to meet ufo requirements effectively. To achieve such results various more fundamental scanning and extraction processes would have to exist, while they, in turn, would themselves require control. All control techniques imply mathematical or computational systems, and they in turn imply a workable communications system or series of systems. "Writing" as we know it may not exist, but an accurate conveyance of ideas and abstract thoughts must surely exist at some level in the ufo culture being discussed.

As mentioned, some ufologists have gone so far as to argue that ufos might conceivably be "thought" into existence by advanced entities; in which case most of the foregoing arguments would perhaps be merely erroneous extensions of possibly inapplicable terrestrial technology. Agreement with such a viewpoint is seriously weakened by those reports that describe ufos being "repaired". In the

known "repair" cases no eyewitness has described processes whereby replacement units were suddenly "thought" into existence by ufo occupants, even though it is readily conceded that they were "thought" into existence inside the ufo before being brought outside to be inserted into or fitted onto the ufo's exterior. Certainly the "repair" cases suggest that ufos are composed of various parts or segments that can be changed when required. This, in turn, suggests that such parts are manufactured individually before being assembled (somewhere) into complete ufos, with a few critical spares, perhaps, being carried on board for emergency purposes. In the writer's submission, the "thinking" into existence explanation strains the credulity just too much for acceptance, despite the repeated marvels of other ufo activities, and does not merit lasting consideration.

Fourthly, a repeated interest in biological and zoological and botanical subjects suggests that the ufo culture possesses a great interest in natural history and an accompanying medical knowledge. Several indications are known suggestive of breeding experiments and biological research programmes. There are also grounds for suspecting that ufo occupants are engaged in psychological studies of human beings, and from time to time appear to monitor particular individuals, families, or communities. Such behaviour is consistent with a wide ranging study programme. Quite possibly, some of the beams or rays of light directed at terrestrial denizens may represent monitoring or recording processes analogous to Man's photographic endeavours. The soundless bursting of blobs of light apparently directed purposefully at particular targets suggests just such activity. The possession by ufos of such techniques again squares with the notion of an elaborate and advanced culture.

The often recorded interest in farms, fisheries, and hospitals is apparently further verification of some deep seated preoccupation by ufos with terrestrial biology, as used in its widest sense.

It would therefore seem safe to assume that, so far as the recorded fabric of "pure" ufology is concerned, there is every indication of ufos being a part of a vaster whole, of which the greater part currently remains unknown to us. While very largely strange and inexplicable to us, this vaster whole nevertheless appears to function most effectively and, despite the bizarre character of many of its constituent details, must conform in its basic construction and modus operandi to the fundamental building blocks of the Universe. As such it would eventually be comprehensible even to us given a sufficiently long period of scrutiny and study. The big stumbling block, however, is that our concept of what constitutes the fundamental building blocks of the Universe may be in error, or at least incomplete. In other words, Man's researches may have so far overlooked a crucial natural law necessary to a proper understanding of the ufo enigma, and that until we stumble upon it we may never understand that enigma.

But there are aspects of the ufo phenomena that we can understand. We recognize that artificially shaped objects like ufos, having apparent mass, must be constructed from designs and materials, and that these in turn had to be assembled beforehand, thus indicative of organized effort. Such processes are familiar to even us. We are much less sure, however, about the propulsive methods used by ufos, and their apparent loss of mass while in flight; and we really know nothing at all about the origins of ufos. It is true that several theories purport to explain the presence of ufos here, but once again nobody knows for sure if any of them approaches the truth. All this, therefore, is analogous to our ice-

berg. We discern the part above water in reasonable detail and we glimpse the shadowy outlines of some parts just below water level; but we know nothing of the overall size and shape of the iceberg. Our sole consolation is that the only clues we possess respecting the very existence of this alien culture is via ufo visitations and the activities of their occupants. That such a culture could exist and Man remain ignorant of it --- supposing for a moment that it had not discovered Earth (or our dimension) and visited us --- is a very sobering thought.

Having sighted the tip of the iceberg, therefore, let us take positive steps to explore the shadowy and hidden portions of it. But all mariners will attest that icebergs can be dangerous, so let our exploration proceed systematically and cautiously.

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Investigations that preclude studies of topics referred to here collectively as peripheral ufology are almost certainly as dangerous as those that ignore the perils of an iceberg, for, although none of these topics have yet to be linked indisputably with the ufo phenomenon pure and simple, it is nonetheless interesting that incidences of ufo activity in specific regions or at particular periods very often coincide spatially and temporarily with outbreaks of animal mutilations, sightings of strange animals, and reports of unknown humanoid or anthropoid creatures. The cessation of any one of these outbreaks in a given locality is very often accompanied by similar cessations of the other mysteries. Thus, although definite connections between the apparently dissimilar enigmas just mentioned have still to be established, the close similarities between their periods of manifestation (a repetitious factor it may be added) at least lends support to the suspicion that some or all of them may in reality be very firmly connected one with another. In that case, each would represent different pieces of some larger but obscure whole --- the "whole" being that alien realm best known to us through the so-called "pure" ufology.

If, as has been suggested, ufos and their occupants represent but the tip of an iceberg, then these other mysteries (bizarre animal mutilations, falls of frogs and other animals, "Bigfoot" sightings, sightings of mystery animals like the "Surrey Puma", poltergeist events, etc.) might very well be further aspects of the hidden portion of the iceberg revealed to us only sporadically and erratically. Every investigator who has studied each of these problems in depth has reached the conclusion that the enigmas are far reaching and much more complex than initial acquaintance suggests --- very much as ufologists have concluded about ufos "pure and simple". In other words, each of these various mysteries is greater and is attended by far reaching ramifications than is generally supposed, whereby each clearly reflects some grander design than is usually admitted. Equally clearly none is complete in itself, but obviously relates to other as yet undetermined material. The temporal coincidence of so many of these mysteries with ufo activity is thus of great interest and, perhaps, of much importance.

By ignoring these "peripheral" enigmas, or by excluding them from ufology, we may be rendering ufology and ourselves a very great disservice. Nobody withholds agreement from the viewpoint that ufology "pure and simple" contains enough within itself to occupy a lifetime's study, and that the tacking-on of "peripheral" enigmas complicates matters still further. But, as has been pointed out, the overall ufo puzzle may not be solvable without the recognition of these other

topics as integral parts of the whole. In conclusion, and by way of illustrating this point more fully, we may consider the following.

Let us suppose that five ufonauts land on Earth one night and steal a series of watches from a jewellers (ufonauts have a habit of taking things from Earth without our permission). On returning to their place of origin they set about studying the watches, without realizing precisely what the watches are. Thus, one ufonaut studies the overall design of the watch with its combination of metals, glass face, and retractable winder, etc.; a second ufonaut studies the arrangement of the numbers round the dial, and tries to determine their meaning and purpose. A third ufonaut studies the movements of the hour, minute, and second hands and their relations one to another. The fourth ufonaut investigates the internal mechanism of the watch, studying the numbers and shapes of the coils, springs, and balances; and the fifth ufonaut studies the metallurgy and structure of the glass that makes up the watch. Eventually each ufonaut meets with the others and submits his report. When these are distilled together the true function and use of the watch may become apparent. Equally it may not, as all kinds of gauges, measuring devices, and monitoring units produced on Earth have numbered dials, and moving hands controlled internally by a variety of mechanisms, both moving and solid state. Thus there would be no guarantee that our five hypothetical ufonauts would arrive at the correct interpretation respecting the stolen watch, even though they ~~they~~ had subjected it to deep analytical study.

At present it seems to me that ufology is, in some quarters, perilously close to being in the position of the five hypothetical ufonauts. A great deal of research is being prosecuted into particular aspects of the ufo phenomenon, and into topics discussed here as "peripheral ufology", and few attempts are being made to relate the various findings one to another or to synthesize information realistically. In other words, a high percentage of current ufo research seems to be "isolationistic", with no or few correlations of data. Digging one's own trench and extracting every last ounce of information from it is fine until the trench gets so deep that one cannot see over its rim to see what other adjacent trench-diggers are doing. In this connection it is encouraging to note that a few organizations have recently been established to correlate interdisciplinary studies. In every case these efforts are extremely ambitious and are thus prone to set-backs or failure. It is really up to all serious ufologists to support such organizations to the hilt, for a solution to their mutual interest may only be possible through effective correlations of this widespread data. By way of a brief illustration, the sighting of ufos over Britain on say October 1st coming, while locally interesting, will have a wholly unknown significance if we do not also make it our business to discover where else ufos appeared on that day, if at all, or if any of the so-called "peripheral" phenomena occurred that day. Only the wider over-view of the known phenomena will enable us to perceive the full extent of the ufo iceberg. At present this' hardly happening. And yet, as advocated in this article, there appears to exist (somewhere) a whole incredible alien culture, the very existence of which is unknown except through the various manifestations discussed above. But our culture is known to it, and we seem to be of much interest to it. Any relationships that occur between the two cultures occur on its terms, not ours. Is it not high time that we reversed, or at least evened-up, the process? It may well be that Man's very future depends on achieving such a balance.

"RESULTS OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE"

by

Paul Flatman.

Members will recall that some months ago they were sent a questionnaire by Contact (UK)'s committee which was designed to discover membership reaction to the manner in which Contact (UK) was being operated, and which invited members to suggest improvements and voice opinions. Only 145 replies were received, and not all of these were fully completed, although the standard of the replies overall was generally very high. This exercise also generated many interesting ideas, some of which will no doubt be put into effect in due course.

It is, of course, not possible here to give the whole questionnaire in detail although we do wish to record how members reacted to the YES/NO questions posed in it, and we think it advantageous to also discuss some of the other questions that are somewhat more complicated. The major results are given below, Q representing the question; Y = yes, and N = no.

Q: Are you satisfied with the information produced in "Awareness"?

Y: 117; N: 19.

Q: Should more UFO cases be included?

Y: 117; N: 22.

Q: Should more international incidents be included?

Y: 68; N: 41.

Q: Do you think there should be a members' letters page in "Awareness"?

Y: 91; N: 9.

Q: Do you think more technical information should be published in "Awareness"?

Y: 103; N: 18.

Q: Do you feel that services to members could be improved?

Y: 63; N: 18.

Q: Would attend ufo meetings at local member's houses if these were organized?

Y: 117; N: 13.

Q: Are you satisfied with the network of investigators as detailed in "Awareness"?

Y: 117; N: 13.

Q: Due to inflationary trends would you object to an increase in subscriptions or membership fees?

Y: 10; N: 114.

Readers will be able to draw their own conclusions from these answers, just as your committee has. Indeed, this issue already prints numerous international ufo incidents in its round-up of selected cases. Future issues will include a section devoted to readers' letters, all of which should be sent direct to me at 48 Crown Road, Wheatley, near Oxford, OXON. It is possible from the above information to appreciate many aspects of organization much better than hitherto, and all contributors can be assured that their views will significantly assist your committee in running Contact (UK) to your satisfaction. Certainly we wish here to thank everyone who participated in this valuable exercise.

In general we feel that the questionnaire was a great success so that another containing different questions will be issued in due course. Hearing your ideas and views by this means is extremely helpful and interesting to us, and is a method we think should be repeated with reasonable regularity. The present set of answers received show that members are 100% behind Contact (UK)'s committee and, like that committee, want to see the organization grow even larger next year and the year after that. As we all know, Contact (UK) is one of the largest ufo groups in the world, and, with its membership of Contact International, part of the largest ufo organization of all.

Finally, many members who troubled to return the questionnaires also sent in highly interesting and often very lengthy separate sheets detailing their views on specific problems. The volume of such material was, in fact, so great that your committee is still evaluating it in depth. Many of the ideas received are first-class, although a few are idealistic and would be extremely difficult to put into practice. Nonetheless, every opinion is being given close study as even initially impracticable ideas can sometimes be recast as workable or viable endeavours. Among some of the more immediately promising views received have been ideas respecting advertising in "Awareness" and the wider advertising of Contact (UK) elsewhere; also ways of increasing membership, the possibility of life membership arrangements, and of how best to stimulate contact between members at the individual or subgroup level. We shall publish our findings and recommendations on these studies in due course, and hope to allow for their full discussion at the next Annual General Meeting. A full announcement respecting the latter will appear in the Autumn issue of "Awareness", as the event will not this year take place until January 20th., 1979.

Thank you all once more for your splendid co-operation, so very much appreciated.

NEW INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT ELECTED.

Following the recent resignation of International President John Longhorn, we have pleasure in announcing that, as from July 1st., 1978, the new International President of Contact International will be Mr Philip Burden. This appointment was ratified by the International Advisory Council under the chairmanship of the Earl of Clancarty (Brinsley Le Poer Trench) our Founder President. Mr Burden, formerly with the Ministry of defence, is now resident near Bath, and will shortly be communicating with all member countries and their ICMS. We in Contact (UK) wish him every possible success for the future, and feel sure that under his aegis Contact International will continue to blossom.

We also take this opportunity of thanking John Longhorn, of Lymm, Cheshire, for the sterling work he performed on behalf of Contact International when he was International President. He was responsible for making several important new ufological friends for our organization abroad, and helped to cement a truly international outlook among many member countries. It is with regret that we have to add that his resignation followed upon the ill-health of his wife and his own deteriorating physical condition. Everyone wishes both him and his wife a speedy and lasting recovery from their incapacitations. His smiling face and wise counsel will be much missed at the advisory council meetings, while his astonishing energy will indeed be very hard to replace: editor.

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"NEWS FROM BUFORA"

by

Lionel Beer.

1978 CONFERENCE: this was held at the well-appointed George Hotel, Nottingham. It was well attended, particularly successful, and will be hard to repeat. Speakers came from such diverse locations as California (Dr Richard Haines), Holland, Guernsey, Northern Ireland, plus a special audio-visual presentation from SUFOI in Denmark. A number of significant points arose, and it is hoped to issue the conference proceedings detailing these in due course. Send a S.A.E. for the press summary of the event to me at the address given above.

£1,000,000 PRIZE: BUFORA was consulted by "Cutty Sark" (Scotch Whisky) Ltd., prior to this firm's announcement of a £1m prize to anyone successfully producing a genuine UFO or alien artifact (subject to vetting by London's Science Museum staff). BUFORA supports this promotion if the 2nd prize of £1,000 for a serious paper, and a 3rd prize for researching sailing ship logbooks, help to promote serious interest in ufology. BUFORA would, however, prefer to see a wider range of prizes offered.

LONDON LECTURES: BUFORA continues to attract top speakers, authors, and experts and its 1978-1979 lecture programme is no exception. Bernard Delair, Erling Jensen (for SUFOI, Denmark), Sir John Whitmore, Alan West, Paul Devereux, Norman Oliver, and Stephen Jenkins have been lined up for this season's programme. The lectures are held on the first Saturday of every month, at 7.00 pm, in the Kensington Central Library lecture theatre. Send a S.A.E. to the above mentioned address for a 1978-1979 programme card.

MEMBERSHIP DETAILS: For full details of BUFORA send a 9 x 4½" S.A.E., to Miss Wood, Hon.Sec. (BUFORA Ltd.), 6 Cairn Avenue, London, W.5. Membership includes bimonthly receipt of the BUFORA JOURNAL, edited by Norman Oliver, FRAS.

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